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Jan. 9, 1990

Docket No. 50-73

Mr. R. W. Darmitzel, Manager
Irradiation Processing Product Section
Vallecitos Nuclear Center
General Electric Company
P.O. Box 460
Pleasanton, California 94566

Dear Mr. Darmitzel:

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY NUCLEAR TEST REACTOR PHYSICAL SECURITY PLAN

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently reviewing your physical security plan for the General Electric Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR) licensed pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50. As you are aware, 10 CFR 50.34(c) requires each licensee who is authorized to operate a production or utilization facility to submit a security plan which complies with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 73. On September 6, 1989, an on-site review of your June 1988 security plan was conducted by Mr. A. McQueen of the NRC's Region V office. During that review a question arose as to whether or not single NTR fuel elements were irradiated to a dose rate in excess of 100 rems per hour at a distance of three feet from any accessible surface without intervening shielding, thereby allowing you to exempt the fuel in the NTR from the physical protection requirements of 10 CFR 73.67(d).

In order to properly review your security plan, it is requested that you provide the NRC with the method and procedures used for measuring or calculating the external dose rate of the fuel elements and the results of your measurements or calculations. Should it be necessary to re-measure or re-calculate the dose rate of the fuel elements, please ensure that radiation exposure to personnel is kept as low as reasonably achievable. Your response should be submitted to the NRC within forty-five (45) days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Theodore S. Michaels, Senior Project Manager
Non-power Reactor, Decommissioning and
Environmental Project Directorate,
Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV, V
and Special Projects

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cc: See next page

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General Electric Company (NTR)

Docket No. 50-73

cc: California Department of Health
ATTN: Chief, Environmental
Radiation Control Unit
Radiological Health Section
714 P Street, Room 498
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